

What is CHAMPVA?

CHAMPVA (the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) is a federal health benefits program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. CHAMPVA is a Fee for Service (indemnity plan) program. CHAMPVA provides reimbursement for most medical expenses – inpatient, outpatient, mental health, prescription medication, skilled nursing care, and durable medical equipment (DME). There is a very limited adjunct dental benefit that requires pre-authorization.

What kind of certification is required for individuals between age 18 and 23 who are in school?

The school must certify a student's enrollment status on school letterhead at least annually. For colleges and universities, this is normally two consecutive semesters (summer excluded providing the student attends the semester before and after). For high school, it's the academic year.

Must a student be enrolled in a specific type of school to be eligible for CHAMPVA?

Schools can be colleges, junior colleges, universities, vocational schools, high schools, etc., but must be accredited by a nationally recognized agency or association.

How many class hours must a student be taking to be eligible for CHAMPVA?

High school students must be full-time. College students must be full-time which means they must be taking at least 12 credit hours per semester (or equivalent quarter hours).

What information must be in a certification?

- student's full name
- student's Social Security number
- exact beginning and ending dates of each semester/enrollment term
- number of semester hours (not required for high school)
- a statement that indicates the student is attending school full-time
- signature and title of a school official

Certifications should be on school letterhead or computer generated forms.

Can the certification be in a foreign language?

Yes, but it will take longer to process.

Where does the school send the certification?

It can be mailed to the address below or faxed to 303-331-7809.

What is required if the student changes status?

- Immediately notify the Health Administration Center at the address below.
- Report changes from part-time to full-time or full-time to part-time. Report withdrawals from school.

It is not necessary to report school vacation periods; these do not affect eligibility status.

How do I get more information?

- Check our web site at www.va.gov/hac, select CHAMPVA
- Write us at P.O. Box 65023, Denver, CO 80206-9023
- E-mail us at hac.inq@med.va.gov
- Call 1-800-733-8387, Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM -1:30 PM and 2:30- 5:00 PM Eastern Time.